Claims

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for sending information to a data processing apparatus for identification of a document having the information using a handheld device capable of communicating with the data processing apparatus, the handheld device having a memory, the method comprising:

   providing the document;

   capturing the information from the document;

   storing the captured information in the memory of the handheld device as document data;

   establishing a communications path between the handheld device and the data processing apparatus;

   retrieving the document data from the memory of the handheld device; and

   sending the retrieved document data from the handheld device to the data processing apparatus through the communications path for identification of the document.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the document is an electronic document.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the document is a physical document.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein the physical document is a periodical article.

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5.   The method of claim 3 wherein the physical document is a newspaper article.

6.   The method of claim 3 wherein the physical document is a magazine article.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the handheld device is a cellular phone.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the handheld device is a personal digital assistant ("PDA").

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the handheld device is a watch.

10.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

capturing the information includes:

scanning the document to generate scanned information, and

converting the scanned information to digital text data; and wherein

storing the captured information includes storing the digital text data.

11.   The method of claim 1 wherein:

capturing the information includes:

providing the information as spoken audio, and

converting the spoken audio to a digital audio signal; and wherein

storing the captured information includes storing the digital audio signal.

12. In a data processing apparatus, a method for identifying a document for sharing with a recipient, the method comprising:

    providing a plurality of reference documents, each reference document having reference data stored in a memory;

    receiving, from a handheld device, document data associated with one of the reference documents;

    extracting at least a portion of the received document data as scanning data;

    retrieving the reference data from the memory;

    comparing the scanning data with the reference data; and

    selecting, when the scanning data matches at least a portion of the reference data of one of the reference documents, the one reference document as the identified document.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital text data identifying a name of the one reference document

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital

text data identifying an author of the one reference document.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital text data identifying a publication date of the one reference document.

16. In a data processing apparatus, a method for identifying a document and sharing the identified document with a recipient, the data processing apparatus coupled to a data network, the method comprising:

    providing a plurality of reference documents, each reference document having associated reference data stored in a memory;

    receiving, from a handheld device in communication with the data processing apparatus, information captured from a source document by the handheld device and address information identifying a receiving address for the recipient;

    extracting at least a portion of the captured information as scanning data;

    retrieving the reference data from the memory;

    comparing the scanning data with the reference data;

    selecting, when the scanning data matches at least a portion of the reference data associated with one of the

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reference documents, the one reference document as the identified document; and

sending, using the address information, the selected document to the receiving address of the recipient.

5   17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital text data identifying a name of the source document

18.   The method of claim 16 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital

10   text data identifying an author of the source document.

19.   The method of claim 16 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital text data identifying a publication date of the source document.

15   20.   The method of claim 16 wherein sending the selected document includes:

attaching the selected document to an e-mail message, and

sending the e-mail message to the receiving

20   address via the data network.

21.   The method of claim 16 wherein sending the selected document includes:

sending the selected document to the receiving address via facsimile transmission.

22. A method for sharing with a recipient a document having information using a handheld device having a memory and capable of communicating with a data processing apparatus in communication with a data network, the method

5   comprising:

capturing the information from the document using the handheld device;

storing the captured information in the memory of the handheld device;

10   providing, to the handheld device, address information identifying a receiving address for the recipient;

storing, in the memory of the handheld device, the address information;

establishing a communications path between the

15   handheld device and the data processing apparatus;

sending the captured information and the address information from the handheld device to the data processing apparatus via the communications path;

receiving, by the data processing apparatus, the

20   captured information and the address information from the handheld device;

extracting at least a portion of the captured information as scanning data;

providing a plurality of reference documents, each reference document having reference data stored in a reference memory;

retrieving the reference data from the reference memory;

comparing the scanning data with the reference data;

selecting, when the scanning data matches at least a portion of the reference data of one of the reference documents, the one reference document as the identified document; and

sending, using the address information, the selected document to the receiving address of the recipient.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the document is an electronic document.

24. The method of claim 22 wherein the document is a physical document.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the physical document is a periodical article.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the physical document is a newspaper article.

27. The method of claim 24 wherein the physical document is a magazine article.

28. The method of claim 22 wherein capturing the information includes:

scanning the document to generate scanned information, and

converting the scanned information to digital text data; and wherein

5   storing the captured information includes storing the digital text data.

29. The method of claim 22 wherein capturing the information includes:

providing the information as spoken audio, and

10   converting the spoken audio to a digital audio signal; and wherein

storing the captured information includes storing the digital audio signal.

30. A data processing apparatus for identifying one of a

15   plurality of reference documents for sharing with a recipient in communication with a data network, each reference document having reference data, from information received from a handheld device in communication with the data processing apparatus, the data processing apparatus

20   coupled to the data network, the apparatus comprising:

a memory in which a plurality of instructions are stored; and

a processor coupled to the memory and coupled to: (i) access the reference data in a storage medium, and (ii)

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receive the information from the handheld device, the processor capable of executing the instructions in the memory, execution of the instructions causing a plurality of steps to be performed including:

5   extracting at least a portion of the information received from the handheld device as scanning data,

comparing the scanning data with the reference data, and

selecting, when the scanning data matches at least a portion of the reference data of one of the reference documents, the one reference document as the identified document.

31. The data processing apparatus of claim 30, execution of the instructions by the processor causing further steps to be performed, namely:

establishing a communications path between the data processing apparatus and the recipient via the data network, and

sending, using the address information, the selected document to the receiving address of the recipient via the communications path.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein sending the selected document includes:

attaching the selected document to an e-mail message, and

sending the e-mail message to the receiving address via the data network.

5 33. The method of claim 31 wherein sending the selected document includes:

sending the selected document to the receiving address via facsimile transmission.

34. A system for identifying one of a plurality of

10 reference documents, each reference document having associated reference data, for sharing the identified document with a recipient, the system comprising:

a data processing apparatus in communication with a data network; and

15 a handheld device having a memory and capable of:

capturing the information from the document,

storing the captured information in the memory,

storing, in the memory, address information identifying a receiving address for the recipient,

20 establishing a communications path with the data processing apparatus, and

sending the captured information and the address information from the handheld device to the data processing apparatus via the communications path;

the data processing apparatus capable of:

receiving the captured information and the address information from the handheld device,

extracting at least a portion of the captured
5   information as scanning data,

accessing the reference data,

comparing the scanning data with the reference data,

selecting, when the scanning data matches at
10   least a portion of the reference data associated with one of the reference documents, the one reference document as the identified document,

establishing a communications path between the data processing apparatus and the recipient via the data
15   network, and

sending, using the address information, the selected document to the receiving address of the recipient via the communications path.

35.   The method of claim 34 wherein the handheld device is
20   a cellular phone.

36.   The method of claim 34 wherein the handheld device is a personal digital assistant ("PDA").

37.   The method of claim 34 wherein the handheld device is a watch.

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38. A processor readable storage medium having processor readable program code such that, when executed by a processor in a data processing apparatus, performs a method for identifying one of a plurality of reference documents

5   for sharing with a recipient, each reference document having reference data, from information received by the data processing apparatus from a handheld device in communication with the data processing apparatus, the method comprising:

10   extracting at least a portion of the information received from the handheld device as scanning data;

    extracting at least a portion of the information received from the handheld device as address information identifying a receiving address for the recipient;

15   comparing the scanning data with the reference data;

    selecting, when the scanning data matches at least a portion of the reference data of one of the reference documents, the one reference document as the identified document; and

20   sending, using the address information, the selected document to the receiving address of the recipient.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital text data identifying a name of the one reference document

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40. The method of claim 38 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital text data identifying an author of the one reference document.

41. The method of claim 38 wherein the scanning data extracted from the received document data includes digital text data identifying a publication date of the one reference document.

42. A carrier wave having processor readable program code executable by a processor in a data processing apparatus to perform a method for identifying one of a plurality of reference documents for sharing with a recipient, each reference document having reference data, from information received by the data processing apparatus from a handheld device in communication with the data processing apparatus, the method comprising:

extracting at least a portion of the information received from the handheld device as scanning data;

extracting at least a portion of the information received from the handheld device as address information identifying a receiving address for the recipient;

comparing the scanning data with the reference data;

selecting, when the scanning data matches at least a portion of the reference data of one of the reference

documents, the one reference document as the identified
document; and

  sending, using the address information, the selected
document to the receiving address of the recipient.

5 43. The method of claim 42 wherein sending the selected
document includes:

  attaching the selected document to an e-mail
message, and

  sending the e-mail message to the receiving
10 address via the data network.

44. The method of claim 42 wherein sending the selected
document includes:

  sending the selected document to the receiving
address via facsimile transmission.